

C2 NO3
NO:1. 2. (Once Amended) A purified polypeptide of claim 1 having a sequence of SEQ ID

C3
A, B, D, E
25. (Once Amended) A method for using a protein to screen a plurality of molecules or compounds, the method comprising:

(a) combining the protein of claim 1 with the compound or molecule under conditions to allow complex formation; and

(b) detecting complex formation, wherein the presence of the complex identifies a molecule that specifically binds the protein.

Please add new claims 26-28 as follows:

C4
26. (New) A method of making a monoclonal antibody, the method comprising:
a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide of claim 1 under conditions to elicit an antibody response;

b) isolating antibody producing cells from the animal;

c) fusing the antibody producing cells with immortalized cells in culture to form monoclonal antibody-producing hybridoma cells;

d) culturing the hybridoma cells; and

e) isolating from the culture monoclonal antibodies which bind specifically to the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1.

27. (New) A method for screening a molecule or compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a molecule or compound, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

28. (New) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
 - b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.
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